



Florida's Newest Commercial Spaceport (Shiloh Vicinity)

Frequently Asked Questions

v. 1.2014

What is the timeline for the FAA Environmental Impact Study (EIS)?

According to the FAA, public hearings are currently slated for

- February 11, 2014 – New Smyrna Beach High School gymnasium (5-8 p.m.)
- February 12, 2014 – Eastern Florida State College in Titusville (5-8 p.m.)

Comments are welcome from the public and interested groups through the FAA Federal Register site through February 21, 2014.

After the public hearings and comment period end, the next significant event will be the release of the 'Draft' EIS near the end of calendar 2014. That will provide the basic information as to the actual environmental impacts and required mitigation. Additionally, it will clarify what restrictions will and will not be imposed on recreational access by the different activities authorized under the FAA license.

Can you give a broader timeline for the rest of the FAA approvals and, ideally, the project itself?

The FAA anticipates a 12-18 month environmental impact review period. FAA approval of the Spaceport Operators License should be granted in early-to-mid 2015. The next step will be the negotiation of a land agreement with NASA. Ultimately, it will be up to the commercial marketplace to choose their timeline to avail themselves of the capability the state hopes to offer.

What will be the total cost, economic impact and job creation potential of this project?

These numbers are largely dependent on the company that utilizes the site and their specific needs. Any figures that have been published to date are only estimations and not sourced by Space Florida.

Can you give an update on where the project is in terms of being funded?

The money required to complete the EIS has already been authorized by the Space Florida Board of Directors. The costs of the actual development of the facilities will be the responsibility of the private companies that utilize the site. The state may negotiate with those firms at a later date on assistance, but that will be based upon the usual metrics of jobs and capital investment.

How crucial is this site in terms of attracting a company like SpaceX or Blue Origin to pick Florida over sites in Texas and Puerto Rico?

What Texas, Georgia, PR and others can offer is a clean slate where the appropriate requirements of NASA and the military will never impact the commercial schedule. That cannot be offered at KSC or CCAFS. Safety will continue to be protected by the FAA for the public, by OSHA for the workplace and the EPA for the environment, just like any other location in the country.

What's the biggest challenge to the project right now?

The risk of commercial launch activity moving to Texas, Georgia, or elsewhere is real, and poses a genuine risk to the future of this state in the exploration of space.

The EIS process and negotiations with the Federal Government take time. We believe we can do this, but the situation is urgent and time is short.

Where can I get more information as this project develops?

For more information, visit the FAA's project page on the Federal Register at the following link: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/12/26/2013-30823/office-of-commercial-space-transportation-notice-of-intent-to-prepare-an-environmental-impact>